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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/874,442	06/05/2001	Katsufumi Ohmuro	3408.65587	5793

7590 12/10/2004

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, JIMMY H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2673

DATE MAILED: 12/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/874,442

Applicant(s)

OHMURO ET AL.

Examiner

Jimmy H. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/5/2001.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is made in response to applicant's RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT AND AMENDMENT, filed on 10/12/2004.

2. Applicant's election without traverse of species I as illustrated in figures 2-9, in the reply filed on 10/12/2004 is acknowledged.

3. No claim is withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to nonelected species II and III, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 10/12/2004.

4. Claims 1-4 are currently pending in the application. An action follows below:

Claim Objections

5. Claims 1 and 4 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(a) because although these claims meet the requirement 112/2d, i.e., the metes and bounds are determinable, however, the following changes should be made:

Regarding to claim 1, "device, including" in line 1, should be changed to --device comprising--, and "applied, further comprising:" in line 8, should be changed to --applied; --, so as to improve its form to conform with U.S. claim drafting practice.

Regarding to claim 4, "wherein" in line 9, should be changed to --the method comprising-- , --applying-- should be inserted immediately before "a voltage" in line 11, "is applied" in line 12 should be deleted, --applying-- should be inserted immediately before "the first target display voltage" in line 13, and "is applied" in lines 13-14 should be deleted, because claim 4 is a method claim.

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It is in the best interest of the patent community that applicant, in his/her normal review and/or rewriting of the claims, to take into consideration these editorial situations and make changes as necessary.

Drawings

6. Figure 3B (see the specification, page 12, lines 23-26) should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.121(d)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicants'

Admitted Prior Art, hereinafter AAPA.

As per claims 1 and 4, the claimed invention reads on AAPA as follows: AAPA discloses a LCD device and an associate method for driving the LCD device including domain restriction

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structure for restricting so that a liquid crystal is provided between a pixel electrode and a counter electrode (see page 2, line 10 through page 4, line 18). Further, as noting in fig. 3B, AAPA discloses the LCD device comprising an inherent drive circuit in which when the pixel is changed from a first transmittance to a second transmittance greater than the first transmittance, a positive voltage (+Vp) is applied to a first period (a first frame period Tf1) of changing to the second transmittance, and a first target drive voltage (a negative voltage (-Vp)) corresponding to the second transmittance is applied in a second period (a second frame period Tf2) after the first period. It is noted that the positive voltage (+Vp) is inherently greater than the negative voltage (-Vp). Accordingly, the elements and the steps in claims above are read in AAPA.

As per claims 2 and 3, AAPA discloses the limitations of these claims. See fig. 3B.

9. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Konuma et al. (USPN: 5,594,569), hereinafter Konuma.

As per claims 1 and 4, the claimed invention reads on Konuma as follows: Konuma discloses a LCD device and an associate method for driving the LCD device including domain restriction structure for restricting so that a liquid crystal is provided between a pixel electrode (22) and a counter electrode (23). See fig. 3 and col. 1, lines 46-62. Further, as noting in fig. 10, Konuma discloses the LCD device comprising an inherent drive circuit in which when the pixel is changed from a first transmittance to a second transmittance greater than the first transmittance, a positive voltage (+V) is applied to a first period and a negative voltage (corresponding to the claimed first target drive voltage) is applied in a second period after the first period. It is noted that the positive voltage is inherently greater than the negative voltage. Accordingly, the elements and the steps in claims above are read in AAPA.

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As per claims 2 and 3, Konuma discloses the limitations of these claims. See figs. 10 and 14.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Takeda et al. (USPN: 6,661,488 B1, see figs. 9, 82 and 83, and abstract, col. 18, line 44 through col. 19, line 8, and col. 44, lines 18-43) discloses a related MVA type LCD device including domain restriction structure for restricting so that a liquid crystal is provided between a pixel electrode and a counter electrode.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jimmy H. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 306-5422.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached at (703) 305-4938. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

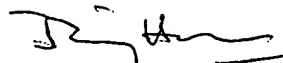
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JHN

December 7, 2004

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jimmy H. Nguyen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jimmy H. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
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